

Amendments In the Claims

Please add claims 26 and 27. Please amend Claims 1, 7-10, 13, 19, 20, 22 and 24 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus-comprising:
a network element port circuit comprising
a first input/output (I/O) port, a second I/O port and a third I/O port;
 an optical connector interface coupled to said third I/O port and
configured to
 couple an optical network connector to with a mounting surface,
and
couple said optical network connector to said first I/O port;
and
 an electrical connector interface coupled to said third I/O port and
configured to
 couple an electrical network connector to with said mounting
 surface, and
couple the electrical network connector to said second I/O port,
 wherein
 said optical connector interface and said electrical
 connector interface are vertically aligned with one
 another with respect to said mounting surface. [[,]]
and
~~wherein said optical connector interface and said electrical~~
~~connector interface are associated with a network~~
~~element port circuit.~~

2. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein
 said electrical connector interface comprises a registered jack 45 (RJ-45)
 interface.

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said optical connector interface comprises an interface of a small form factor pluggable (SFP) optical module.
4. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said optical connector interface comprises an interface of a gigabit interface converter (GBIC) optical module.
5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising: an electrical isolation circuit coupled to said RJ-45 interface.
6. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said electrical isolation circuit comprises one or more magnetics components.
7. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2 **further comprising:** ;
wherein
an auto-media detection physical layer protocol circuit, wherein
said first, second and third I/O ports optical connector interface and
said electrical connector interface are coupled to associated
with an said auto-media detection **physical layer protocol circuit**
network element port.
8. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising: a visual indicator to indicate which of said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface is active on said network element port **circuit.**
9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 8, wherein said **[[a]]** visual indicator comprises at least one of a light emitting diode and a light pipe.
10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said electrical connector interface comprises an upper connector interface of said network element port **circuit,** and

wherein said optical connector interface comprises a lower connector interface of said network element port circuit.

11. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a first electromagnetic signal shield enclosing at least a portion of said optical connector interface; and
a second electromagnetic signal shield enclosing at least a portion of said electrical connector interface.
12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein said mounting surface comprises a printed circuit board.
13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a network element port circuit comprising first, second and third input/output (I/O) ports, wherein
said first and second I/O ports are coupled to said third I/O port;
an optical connector interface coupled to the network element port circuit at the first I/O port; and
an electrical connector interface coupled to the network element port circuit at the second I/O port; and
~~wherein said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are associated with said network element port circuit; and~~
wherein said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are substantially adjacent to one another along a line defined by an intersection of a connector-receiving plane of said network element port circuit and a connector-insertion plane of said network element port circuit.
14. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said electrical connector interface comprises:
a registered jack 45 (RJ-45) interface.

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said optical connector interface comprises:
an interface of a small form factor pluggable (SFP) optical module.
16. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said optical connector interface comprises:
an interface of a gigabit interface converter (GBIC) optical module.
17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
an electrical isolation circuit coupled to said RJ-45 interface.
18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 17 wherein said electrical isolation circuit comprises:
one or more magnetics components.
19. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14 wherein said network element port circuit comprises:
an auto-media detection physical layer protocol circuit ~~network element port~~.
20. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
a visual indicator to indicate which of said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface is active on said network element port circuit.
21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein said a visual indicator comprises:
at least one of a light emitting diode and a light pipe.
22. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 14,
wherein said electrical connector interface comprises an upper connector interface of said network element port circuit, and
wherein said optical connector interface comprises a lower connector interface of said network element port circuit.

23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
 a first electromagnetic signal shield enclosing at least a portion of said optical connector interface; and
 a second electromagnetic signal shield enclosing at least a portion of said electrical connector interface.
24. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
 coupling an optical connector interface at a first input/output (I/O) port of associated with a network element port circuit, wherein
said optical connector interface is further coupled to a third I/O port of said network element port circuit and to a mounting surface;
and
 coupling an electrical connector interface at a second I/O port of associated with said network element port circuit, wherein
said electrical connector interface is further coupled to the third I/O port of said network element port circuit and to said mounting surface such that said optical connector interface and said electrical connector interface are vertically aligned with one another with respect to said mounting surface, **and wherein**
 said electrical connector interface comprises a RJ-45 interface.
25. Canceled
26. (New) The network element port circuit of claim 7, wherein
 said auto-media detection physical layer protocol circuit is configured to
 select a selected port from between said first and second I/O ports,
 process a signal received on said selected port, and
 transmit the processed signal from said third I/O port.
27. (New) The apparatus of claim 13, wherein
 said auto-media detection physical layer protocol circuit is configured to
 select a selected port from between said first and second I/O ports,
 process a signal received on said selected port, and
 transmit the processed signal from said third I/O port.